

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown.

1-61 (Canceled)

62. (New) A process for producing dried pieces of organic waste comprising:
reducing raw organic waste to pieces; and,
drying the raw organic waste to a moisture content at which it is generally free of
odors caused by microbial activity.
63. (New) The process of claim 62 wherein the organic waste is reduced after it is
dried.
64. (New) The process of claim 62 wherein the organic waste is reduced before it is
dried.
65. (New) The process of claim 62 further comprising forming a mixture by mixing
the pieces with water and a biodegradable binder.
66. (New) The process of claim 65 further comprising forming the mixture into a
shape.
67. (New) The process of claim 66 wherein the drying step comprises drying the
shaped mixture to form a solid.
68. (New) The process of claim 67 further comprising the step of heating the shaped
mixture.
69. (New) The process of claim 67 further comprising removing liquid water from
the mixture.
70. (New) The process of claim 69 wherein the liquid water is re-used in a
subsequent process for producing a solid.

71. (New) The process of claim 67 further comprising capturing water vapor emitted while drying the shaped mixture.

72. (New) The process of claim 71 further comprising converting the captured water vapor to liquid water.

73. (New) The process of claim 72 wherein the liquid water is re-used in a subsequent process for producing a solid.

74. (New) The process of claim 65 wherein the water or biodegradable binder in the mixture is obtained from the raw organic waste.

75. (New) The process of claim 74 wherein the biodegradable binder is a carbohydrate.

76. (New) The process of claim 75 wherein the biodegradable binder is activated by the heating.

77. (New) The process of claim 65 wherein the biodegradable binder is a carbohydrate.

78. (New) The process of claim 77 wherein the biodegradable binder is activated by the heating.

79. (New) An apparatus for processing organic waste comprising,
- (a) a plenum for receiving organic matter;
 - (b) a first opening for admitting organic matter into the plenum;
 - (c) a reducing implement for reducing organic matter to pieces;
 - (d) a passageway for transferring reduced organic matter from the plenum to a form for supporting the discharged organic matter; and,
 - (e) a second opening for removing solid from the processing area.

80. (New) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein the plenum has a lid for closing the first opening.

81. (New) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising a screen within the plenum and wherein the passageway is located between the outside of the screen and the plenum, whereby organic waste does not enter the passageway until it has been reduced to less than the size of the openings of the screen.

82. (New) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising an inlet to add water to the plenum.

83. (New) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising a vent for removing water vapor.

84. (New) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising a collector for collecting water vapor.

85. (New) The apparatus of claim 84 further providing a water extractor for extracting liquid water from the collected water vapor.

86. (New) The apparatus of claims 80 further comprising a receptacle for liquid water.

87. (New) The apparatus of claim 86 further comprising a passage for liquid water to pass from the receptacle to the plenum.

88. (New) The apparatus of claims 86 wherein the receptacle receives liquid water collected from extracted water vapor.

89. (New) The apparatus of claim 86 further comprising an injector for introducing a binder to the organic matter.

90. (New) The apparatus of claim 86 further comprising a heater for heating the shaped organic matter.

91. (New) The apparatus of claim 79 further comprising a receiving module and a processing module, the receiving module comprising the first opening, the plenum, and the reducing element, the processing module comprising the form and the second opening, and the passageway extending between the receiving module and the processing module through which the reduced organic matter may be transferred from the plenum to the form, wherein the receiving module is removably coupled to the processing module.

92. (New) The apparatus of claim 91 wherein the receiving module has a lid for closing the first opening.

93. (New) The apparatus of claim 92 wherein the receiving module further comprises a closure for the passageway, wherein when both the closure and lid are closed they reduce the emission of odors from the plenum.